

REMARKS

Claims 15-19 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 15 is in independent form and has been amended.

Independent claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,017,412 (Van Erden). Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the flange portion of each fastener is initially attached to the substrate *along* the length of the flange, and that the body portion of the fastener is later sealed to the substrate *along* the length of the body portion. Applicant submits that Van Erden does not teach such a method.

Rather Van Erden is concerned with the *transverse* end sealing of the profiles to each other and also to the substrate. The principal purpose of such end-sealing of the profiles is not to adhere the zipper profiles to the bag-making substrate but to ensure that the profiles do not separate one from the other when the bag is opened.

Specifically, Van Erden states that its " seal bars 36 straddle the length of zipper strip 10 and seal male and female profiles 12, 14 to each other and to the film material 32 at the extremities of zipper strip 10, 30." (Column 4, lines 56 to 59). Van Erden goes on to state that "the seal may be a continuous seal 38 across the width of the profiles 12, 14," (Column 4, line 63 to column 5, line 3). In fact, Van Erden states that "the seal 38 may be only across the leading flanges, as shown in FIG. 5." (Column 5, lines 9 and 10).

Because Van Erden requires that its substrates be sealed to the profiles across the width of the profiles and only across the leading flanges, Van Erden does not teach a method that requires the flange portion of each fastener to be initially attached to the substrate *along* the length of the flange, and the body portion of the fastener to be later sealed to the substrate *along* the length of the body portion, as claimed. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 15 (and claims 16-19 which ultimately depend therefrom) are in condition for allowance. If the examiner determines that a teleconference would further the prosecution of this case, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

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